

must recruit even more volunteers in order to expand their program to help more young people;

Whereas, in an effort to begin closing the mentoring gap, this year Congress has significantly increased Federal grant funding for local mentoring organizations to \$100,000,000;

Whereas the recipients of these grants and other entities carrying out mentoring programs all across the country will need an influx of volunteers to meet the growing demand for mentoring;

Whereas nonprofit groups and leading media companies have joined together to designate January 2004 as National Mentoring Month to recruit more mentors for young people; and

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more adults to volunteer their time as mentors for young people and enlist the involvement of nonprofit organizations, schools, businesses, faith communities, and government agencies in the mentoring movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates the month of January 2004 as “National Mentoring Month”; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with mentoring;

(2) praises individuals who are already giving their time to mentor young people; and

(3) supports efforts to recruit more adults as mentors, in an effort to close the Nation’s mentoring gap.

MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 424, S. 1879, relating to mammography quality standards.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1879) to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2003, S. 1879. I am pleased to be sponsoring this bill with Senator ENSIGN and our bipartisan cosponsors. This important bill is about saving lives. That’s what the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) does. Accurate mammograms detect breast cancer early, so women can get treatment and be survivors.

Mammography is not perfect, but it is the best screening tool we have now. I authored MQSA over 10 years ago to improve the quality of mammograms so that they are safe and accurate. Before MQSA became law, there was an uneven and conflicting patchwork of standards for mammography in this country. There were no national quality standards for personnel or equipment. Image quality of mammograms

and patient exposure to radiation levels varied widely. The quality of mammography equipment was poor. Physicians and technologists were poorly trained. Inspections were lacking.

MQSA set Federal safety and quality assurance standards for mammography facilities for: personnel, including doctors who interpret mammograms; equipment; and operating procedures. By creating national standards, Congress helped make mammograms a more reliable tool for detecting breast cancer. In 1998, Congress improved MQSA by giving information on test results directly to the women being tested, so no woman falls through the cracks because she never learns about a suspicious finding on her mammogram. Now it is time to renew MQSA and lay the foundation to strengthen it even further.

The bill passed by the Senate today will extend MQSA for 2-years. This 2-year reauthorization of MQSA is important. It will give Congress an opportunity to consider in the next reauthorization expert recommendations from an Institute of Medicine, IOM, study and a General Accounting Office, GAO, report on several issues related to MQSA. I have been working with the Labor, Health and Human Services, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to get these studies underway. The IOM study was included in the fiscal year 2004 omnibus appropriations bill. The HELP Committee also heard testimony in support of a 2 year reauthorization at its hearing last year on MQSA.

This legislation is also supported by groups including the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, and the American College of Radiology Association.

I thank Senators GREGG and KENNEDY for their support and help in moving this legislation through the Senate. I hope that the House will move quickly to pass this important bill. It is estimated that over 217,400 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed and over 40,500 breast cancer deaths will occur in the United States this year. Early detection and treatment are important to reducing breast cancer deaths. Congress should pass this bill to reauthorize MQSA and extend this valuable program that helps save the lives of women and men with breast cancer.

Mr. ALEXANDER. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1879) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1879

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY RENEWAL AND LIMITED PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.

Section 354 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 263b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or a temporary renewal certificate” after “certificate”; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “subsection (c)(1)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) or (2) of subsection (c)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “or a limited provisional certificate” after “certificate”; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “subsection (c)(2)” and inserting “paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c)”;

(C) in the flush matter at the end, by striking “provisional certificate” and inserting “temporary renewal certificate, provisional certificate, or a limited provisional certificate”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) TEMPORARY RENEWAL CERTIFICATE.—The Secretary may issue a temporary renewal certificate, for a period of not to exceed 45 days, to a facility seeking reaccreditation if the accreditation body has issued an accreditation extension, for a period of not to exceed 45 days, for any of the following:

“(A) The facility has submitted the required materials to the accreditation body within the established time frames for the submission of such materials but the accreditation body is unable to complete the reaccreditation process before the certification expires.

“(B) The facility has acquired additional or replacement equipment, or has had significant personnel changes or other unforeseen situations that have caused the facility to be unable to meet reaccreditation timeframes, but in the opinion of the accreditation body have not compromised the quality of mammography.

“(3) LIMITED PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE.—The Secretary may, upon the request of an accreditation body, issue a limited provisional certificate to an entity to enable the entity to conduct examinations for educational purposes while an onsite visit from an accreditation body is in progress. Such certificate shall be valid only during the time the site visit team from the accreditation body is physically in the facility, and in no case shall be valid for longer than 72 hours. The issuance of a certificate under this paragraph, shall not preclude the entity from qualifying for a provisional certificate under paragraph (4).”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 354(r)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 263b(r)(2)(A) and (B)) are amended by striking “2002” each place it appears and inserting “2005”.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader,